(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider these proposals;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (e) The Central Government does not propose to set up new iron and steel units. Under the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991 iron and steel has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector, and also exempted from the requirements of compulsory licensing except for certain locational restrictions. No industrial licence is, therefore, required for setting up iron and steel units, and it is upto individual entrepreneurs to pursue their projects. However, according to information available at present M/s. Mukand Limited and M/s. S.M. Iron and Steel Industries Limited have indicated interest in setting up a steel plant each in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh.

Appointment of Director to the Board of NMDC

2564. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PESB has finalised a panel of selected candidate for appointment of Director on the board of NMDC Limited during the past three years;

(b) whether the pending enquiries against some canditates for various charges have been overlooked;

(c) whether Government are still hesitating to cancel the panel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) finalised a panel in June, 1994 for filling up a vacancy of Director (Production) on the Board of Directors of National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC).

(b) There are no pending enquiries against any of the empanelled candidates and all are clear from the vigilance angle.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration for cancellation of the panel.

Privatisation of Bailadila Iron Ore Project in Madhya Pradesh

2565. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the 11-B mine of Bailadila iron ore project in Bastar district (MP) under NMDC is proposed to be handed over to some Private Agency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The iron ore available at Bailadila Iron Ore Deposit 11-B is reportedly best suited for production of sponge iron in gas-based plants. It is therefore proposed to take up development of Deposit 11-B as a joint venture of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC), with one of the private sector entrepreneurs who are operating or setting up a gas-based sponge iron plant in the country and who already have an assurance from NMDC to meet a substantial part of the plant's requirement of iron ore.

बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र के नवीकरण के लिए ठेका

2566. श्री जनार्दन यादव: क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र के नवीकरण हेतु 1,600 करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि स्वीकृत की गई है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र के नवीकरण का ठेका आस्ट्रेलिया की एक कंपनी को दिया गया है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि हैवी इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन ने भी अपनी निविदा प्रस्तुत की थी और उसकी निविदा-दर सबसे कम थी; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो हैवी इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन को ठेका न दिए जाने के क्या कारण हैं?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष मोहन देव): (क) 1625.79 करोड़ रुपए की अनुमानित लागत पर